

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 IO-10 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 6158

DEPT FOR EA/RA - WALKINSHAW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB MY

SUBJ: MTUC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

REF: KL 4022, 8/20/74

1. SUMMARY: MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC) ELECTED NEW OFFICERS AT BIENNIAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE LAST WEEK. P.P. NARAYANAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF NATIONAL UNION OF PLANTATION WORKERS (NUPW) AND ICFTU ASIAN PRESIDENT, WAS CHOSEN MTUC PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT BIENNIAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE, MTUC ELECTED FOLLOWING SLATE OF OFFICERS:

A. PRESIDENT: P.P. NARAYANAN, NUPW GENERAL SECRETARY AND ASIAN PRESIDENT OF ICFTU; NARAYANAN WAS ALSO FIRST PRESIDENT OF MTUC IN 1949 AND REPLACES YEOH TECK CHYE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF BANK EMPLOYEES (NUBE) WHO WAS DEFEATED IN BOTH UNION AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN AUGUST 1974 (REFTEL).

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YEOH DID NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION TO MTUC POST AND NARAYANAN'S

CANDIDACY WAS NOT OPPOSED.

B. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: T. NARENDRAN, CUEPACS (CIVIL SERVICE UNION CONFEDERATION) PRESIDENT, WAS RE-ELECTED UNOPPOSED.

C. VICE PRESIDENTS: MRS. JOHN GURUSAMY (NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHING PROFESSION -- NUTP); ZAINAL RAMPAK (MTUC YOUTH WING PRESIDENT); MOHAMED BIN ABAS (AMALGAMATED NATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES EMPLOYEES -- ANULAE); G. PARAMESWARAN (NATIONAL UNION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES); GURNAM SINGH (NUTP); V. DAVID (TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION); A. RAGUNATHAN (MALAYAN TECHNICAL SERVICES UNION); AND ABDUL AZIZ BIN ISMAIL (NATIONAL UNION OF COMMERCIAL WORKERS). LAST FOUR WERE RE-ELECTED.

D. SECRETARY-GENERAL: S.J.H. ZAIDI WAS EXTENDED UNTIL DEC. 1976, ALTHOUGH TERM OF OFFICE WAS NOT DUE TO EXPIRE UNTIL MID-1975. YAHAYA BIN MOHAMED ALI OF RAILWAYMEN'S UNION (RUM) WAS ELECTED DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLACING K. DURAIAPPAH WHO IS NOW AN ILO CONSULTANT.

E. FINANCIAL SECRETARY: G. PERUMAL (NUPW) WAS RE-ELECTED, AS WAS V. BARADAN (RUM), DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

F. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED LATER BY AN ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL IN WHICH EACH AFFILIATED UNION IS TO BE REPRESENTED.

3. COMMENT: MTUC SLATE WAS CAREFULLY NEGOTIATED BEFORE CONFERENCE SO THERE WERE NO CONTESTS FOR TOP JOBS. YEOH TECK CHYE'S "RETIREMENT" ILLUSTRATES WANING POLITICAL PARTY INFLUENCE IN MTUC, ALTHOUGH V. DAVID (ALSO AN OFFICIAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY -- PEKEMAS) RETAIN HIS VICE PRESIDENCY. P.P. NARAYANAN, WHO OCCUPIES POSITION IN MALAYSIAN LABOR MOVEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF DEVAN NAIR IN SINGAPORE, IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH GOM BY STEERING CLEAR OF POLITICS, BUT HIS HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN INTL. LABOR AFFAIRS MAY INPinge ON HIS MTUC DUTIES. RISING INFLUENCE OF MALAYS IN MTUC (REINFORCED, WE UNDERSTAND, BY CONFERENCE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MORE MALAYS IN UNION LEADERSHIP POSITIONS) IS DEMONSTRATED BY SELECTION OF YAHAYA BIN MOHAMED ALI AS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL. YAHAYA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE IN GOOD POSITION IN 1976 TO SUCCEED S.J.H. ZAIDI WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED BY SOME IN LABOR MOVEMENT OF "DICTATORIAL" AND SELF-SERVING PRACTICES. UNDERHILL

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